



**Use less energy.  
Produce less waste.  
Save money.**

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## **5 Ways to Live Green This Fall**

Living greener doesn't have to be complicated. Take a few steps this fall with these simple ideas.

### **1. Home heating**

- Have your furnace inspected before the heating season begins. Call ATCO at 403-245-7888 for a free inspection of your natural gas furnace and fireplaces.
- Change your furnace filter and have a season's worth of filters on hand. Change them according to manufacturer's recommendations, usually once every 1 to 2 months.
- Inspect your home for leaks where you might be losing precious heat. Hire a professional to do a blower door test or do it yourself using tips from the Government of Canada's Office of Energy Efficiency (OEE). [www.oee.nrcan.gc.ca](http://www.oee.nrcan.gc.ca) and search "test for leaks"
- Install a programmable thermostat and set it to lower temperatures when you are asleep and away from the house. This could save you 10-30% on your home heating costs.
- Make sure your ducts and vents are clean and clear of obstructions so that warm air can move freely.

### **2. Transportation**

- If you plug in your car to a block heater during winter months invest \$20 in an outdoor timer. Your car doesn't need to be plugged in overnight, only for 2 to 3 hours before you plan to leave.
- According to the OEE the best way to warm up your vehicle is to drive it. Even on cold winter days today's computer-controlled engines require no more than 2 to 3 minutes of idling before driving.
- Don't idle. Idling longer than 10 seconds uses more fuel and produces more CO<sub>2</sub> compared to restarting the engine says the OEE. Any incremental maintenance costs for extra wear on the starter and battery is offset in under 60 seconds. So if you're going to be stopped for more than 60 seconds - except in traffic – turn off the engine.

### **3. Food**

- Preserve locally grown produce for the winter now. Freeze or can berries, tomatoes and other fruits and veggies.

### **4. Yard & garden**

- If you don't compost at home, remember that you can drop your leaves and pumpkins off to the City of Calgary's seasonal drop off locations. Find the one nearest you at [www.calgary.ca](http://www.calgary.ca) and search Leaf and Pumpkin.

### **5. Learn more about your green options in Calgary**

- Hire an eco-coach to help your family live a more environmentally friendly lifestyle. [www.earthwisesolutions.ca](http://www.earthwisesolutions.ca)



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- Read *Live Green, Calgary!* to learn about all the environmentally friendly products and services in Calgary, from home energy to clothes to waste and recycling and everything in between. [www.livegreencalgary.com](http://www.livegreencalgary.com).
- Book the one-hour presentation "Green Your Life: Where to Start" for your workplace or organization. See the Power Point presentation at [www.livegreencalgary.com](http://www.livegreencalgary.com).
- Attend the EcoLiving Fair on September 27, 2008 at Mount Royal College to learn more about environmentally sustainable options. [www.ecolivingfair.ca](http://www.ecolivingfair.ca)